



State of Utah

Department of
Natural Resources

ROBERT L. MORGAN
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Division of
Oil, Gas & Mining

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Division Director

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Governor

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Lieutenant Governor

September 8, 2004

Mr. Russell A. Hinds
The Hinds Group
7660 Woodway, Suite 300
Houston, Texas 77063

Subject: Proposed Reclamation, Crown Asphalt Ridge, Asphalt Ridge Mine,
M/047/032, Uintah County, Utah

Dear Mr. Hinds:

Doug Jensen, Paul Baker, and I have reviewed your letter of August 25, 2004, and have a few comments. The basic plan for reclamation presented in your letter is what was discussed in the August 12, 2004, meeting with Mr. Jensen and Mr. Baker, and it is acceptable. In this meeting, the issue of potential contamination of soils or other materials in the processing plant area was discussed only briefly, and it will need to be addressed (see discussion below). We have not heard whether the County has made any decision about continuing their operations or proceeding with reclamation.

You request our concurrence and approval to proceed, and we concur with the general plan as outlined. You have our approval to begin reclamation operations within your permitted area, but we have a few concerns about allowing you to start reclamation outside your permitted area. Your permitted area includes disturbances in Section 31 of Township 4 South, Range 21 East, SLBM and also the processing plant in Section 30 of this Township. Other disturbances in Section 30 are included in the permit for Uintah County.

The approved reclamation plan contemplates that overburden and soil stored in Section 30 would be used for reclamation of portions of the pit in both Sections 30 and 31, and this is what you have proposed to do. Nevertheless, except for the processing plant, the disturbances in Section 30 are in the permit area and reclamation contract for Uintah County. The Division will hold *Uintah County* responsible for the reclamation work done within their permit area. For these reasons, although Crown may have contractual obligations to perform

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reclamation work in parts of Section 30, we feel it is necessary for you to communicate with the County and to allow them to have input into Crown's reclamation operations. It might be beneficial to develop an agreement with the County outlining reclamation expectations of both parties. Short of signing a formal agreement, you may want to send a letter to the County similar to what you provided us.

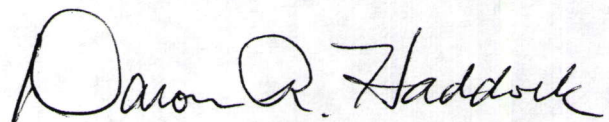
The map included with your letter shows areas labeled "County Extraction" and "County Overburden" which would be reclaimed by Uintah County. The County may not have the equipment or personnel to reclaim these areas within the time frames you need; they may require some assistance to have this reclamation completed by next August.

Equipment and soils and other materials within the processing plant area could be contaminated with chemicals used or produced in this area. You will need to ensure that these are tested and disposed of in accordance with Department of Environmental Quality rules.

Please notify us when you are ready to commence your reclamation project so that we can have our inspectors come to the site and make sure we get off on the right foot.

We look forward to working with you on this project. Please feel free to call me at 801-538-5325, Doug Jensen at 801-538-5382, or Paul Baker at 801-538-5261 if you have questions or concerns about this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daron R. Haddock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daron" being more prominent than the last name "Haddock".

Daron R. Haddock
Permit Supervisor
Minerals Regulatory Program

The photos and maps attached to this note are from Rusty Hinds and were presented to the Division in a meeting on August 12, 2004. They include some conceptual reclamation plans that were further detailed in a letter from Mr. Hinds to the Division on August 25, 2004

Please file
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